

FAMOUS 1950s EC COMICS!



NO. 3
MAR



150
100
CANADA

SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES

SCALING TALES OF
TENSION
IN THE
TRADITION!



THE SHOCKING WIND-UP TO THIS ELECTRIFYING TALE
WILL JOLT YOU OUT OF YOUR SEATS!

Just DESSERTS!

A CRIME
SUSPENSTORY



BERNARD TURNED OFF THE WATER AND DRIED HIS HANDS. HE CHUCKLED TO HIMSELF. THE DINNER PARTY HAD BEEN SUCH A GOOD IDEA. BRINGING ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE TOGETHER AT ONE TIME HAD BEEN A STORE OF MEMORIES AND EVERYTHING HAD GONE SO WELL. HE HUNG UP THE TOWEL CAREFULLY AND PLACED IT IN THE MIRROR.

"THEY'LL KNOW I LOOK PRESENTABLE BUT I SHOULD GO BACK TO THEM. I MUSTN'T KEEP MY GUESTS WAITING!"

BERNARD UNLOCKED THE BATHROOM DOOR AND WALKED INTO THE DINING ROOM. HIS OWNERS' GUESTS SAT ABOUT THE TABLE IN SILENCE. NO ONE STIRRED. BERNARD GRINNED AT THEM.

"I'M SORRY I WAS HOME SO LONG! I JUST WANTED TO CLEAN UP A BIT BEFORE WE TALKED THINGS OVER. YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?"



"WELL, I CAN'T SAY IT'S BECAUSE YOU! SHALL I TELL YOU HOW ALL THIS SAME ABOUTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW? THEY WERE ALL HERE, LIKE THIS!"



"AT LEAST YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER 'EM! JIMMY WAS A GOOD BOY! HE LOOKED JUST LIKE MY FIRST WIFE, TOO! REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO TAKE HIM FOR SPLENDID?"

"OH, BEAUTIFUL! THAT'S A HOME AND YOU'VE GOT THERE!"



"BERNARD LIT A CIGARETTE AND MOVED AROUND THE TABLE BEHIND HIS GUESTS! HE STOPPED IN BACK OF FANNY, THE MAID WHO'D ONCE WORKED FOR HIM.



"I'LL START WITH YOU, FANNY! YOU REMEMBER WHEN I HIRED YOU..."

BERNARD LOOKED AT EACH GUEST. THERE WERE FIVE OF THEM AT THE TABLE, BESIDE HIMSELF! THERE WAS HIS WIFE, OMA. HIS BEST FRIEND, PIVIN. HIS OLD-HAIRD ALICE, CLORINDA. HIS BUSINESS PARTNER, DAVIS. AND A HORSE NAMED FANNY.

"I SUPPOSE THIS DINNER HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF A SHOCK TO ALL OF YOU! YOU'RE ALL SO GAY! NOW!"



"AND I INTRODUCED YOU TO JIMMY! THIS IS MY SON, JIMMY, FANNY! YOUR SON WILL BE TO LOVE HIM!"



"REMEMBER THE DAY IT HAPPENED, FANNY? YOU WERE REALLY CLEVER, WEREN'T YOU? YOU STRAPPED JIMMY IN HIS STROLLER SO HE WOULDN'T WANDER OFF WHILE YOU FLIRTED WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND."

"WHAT TIME DO YOU GET OFF TONIGHT, BABY?"

"ABOUT EIGHT? COME TAKE ME SOMEPLACE!"



REALLY CLEVER, WASN'T IT? YOU WERE SO
BUSY MAKING EYES AT YOUR LATEST FIND. YOU
NEVER NOTICED THE STROLLER BEEN TO JACK.

WHERE'S YOU LIKE
TO GO, BABY?
SOMPLACE NICE,
A MOUNTAIN,
MAYBE.

YOU'VE FORGOTTEN TO PUT ON THE BRAKES THE SIDEWALK
ISN'T LEVEL! THE STROLLER ROLLED RIGHT OFF THE
CART...

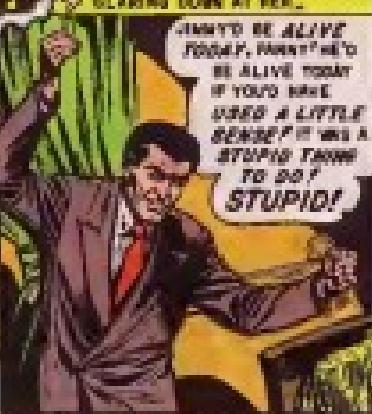
OH, BABY!
A NIGHT
CLUB IS
EXPENSIVE!
MAYBE YOUNG
BETTER LOOK
FOR A NEW
EXPERIENCE!



RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF A SPEEDING
TRUCK...



DESPERATE STEPS OVER PARENT,
HELPING DOWN AT HER...



NEXT TO HARRY SAT JULIUS
THOMPSON, REMARKED OLD MUS-
TACHIO. JONATHAN THOMPSON PRESSED
HIS SHOULDER...

DEAR JULIUS! WHAT
PROVOKED YOU
CALMED WHEN YOU
WING ME OUT?



OH, YES, I KNEW YOU ENGINEERED THE WHOLE SCHEME.
YOU WEREN'T AS CLEVER AS YOU THOUGHT! YOU FEW-
BUT ABOUT OUR INTERIOR SYSTEM?

THAT'S RIGHT! JUST PAY YOUR
BILLS TO OUR COMPANY I'LL
DRAW THEM AND GIVE YOU
TWENTY PERCENT!

YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE PLANNED YOUR DIRTY
SCHEMES IN OUR OFFICES, JULIUS!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT, JULIUS! I'LL DO WHAT
I WANT TO HAPPEN,
NOT I WANT TO WRITE
LAWRENCE OUT...

YOU WANT! BUT WE BETTER
MAKE THAT TWENTY-FIVE
PERCENT!



BERNARD STARED DOWN AT HIS OLD-MAN MORTGAGEBOOK.

THAT'S WHEN I CAME TO YOU.
AUNT GLORIUS REMEMBER?
I TOLD YOU THE WHOLE STORY.
I TOLD YOU THAT IF I COULDN'T
RAISE FIVE THOUSAND
DOLLARS, I'D BE BANKRUPT.



REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME, AUNT GLORIUS?
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID?

GOOD FOR YOU, BERNIE!
SAYING YOU AIN'T? I
TOLD YOU YOU'D END UP
A WORTHLESS TRAMP!



BUT AUNT GLORIUS! I
CAN BEAT THEM! FIVE
THOUSAND THAT'S ALL
I NEED! IT WILL FULL
ME PAYMENT TILL I
CAN PROVE THAT JULIUS
IS BEHIND THIS SCAMMY

BUT YOU WERE TOO STUPID TO
UNDERSTAND! YOU SAT THERE, LYING
ON YOUR BACKBOOKS... AND REFUSED.

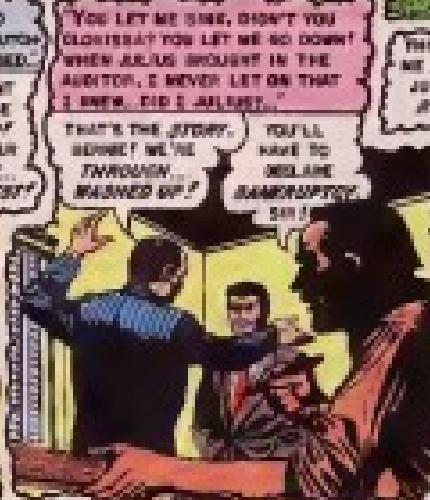
NOT ONE JEW PLEASE! HANT
DEBT, BERNARD! DON'T USE
YOUR HEAD! YOU'LL GET YOUR
MONEY BACK... WITH INTEREST!



YOU LET ME OUT, DIDN'T YOU
CLIMATEAT? YOU LET ME GO DOWN
WHEN JULIUS BROUGHT IN THE
AUDITOR, I NEVER LET ON THAT
I EVER TALKED TO JULIUS!

THAT'S THE STORY,
BERNIE! WE'RE
THROUGH
BAKED UP!

YOU'LL
HAVE TO
DECLARE
BANKRUPTCY.



THO—THIS LEAVES
ME PLAT INVERSE;
JULIUS! I'M
BROKEN!

I'M... JEWISH.
HORROR! THANK
GODNESS.
I HAVE A
LITTLE SOMETHING
TO PROVE
ME OVER!



LITTLE SOMETHING YOU WERE BACK IN BUSINESS
INSIDE TWO MONTHS! AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS
STUPID? YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS
YOU WHO WAS FOOLISH, JULIUS! IT WAS YOU WHO
DIDN'T USE YOUR HEAD!



REMEMBER WHEN WE MET ON THE STREET, AND I
INVITED YOU TO THIS DINNER PARTY?

WE LL, I REMEMBER HOW
YOU BROKE LADYBIRD
LOVED THAT NO SEV' P

JULIUS! WHAT A STRONG
OF LUSH! I'M HAVING A
DINNER-PARTY NEXT
WEEK! YOU'RE INVITED
FOR OLD-TIME'S SAKE!



AND YOU CALL, DON'T YOU? YOU FOOL! YOU STUPID FOOL! WHAT DID YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU GOT HERE? WHAT DID YOU ALL EXPECT? DID YOU THINK I INVITED YOU HOME OUT OF LOVE, FRIENDSHIP? DON'T YOU KNOW I DISRESPECT EACH OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME?



BERNARD MOVED AROUND THE TABLE STARING AT EACH OF THE FIVE PEOPLE SEATED BEFORE IT. HE STOPPED BEHIND HIS WIFE AND LIT ANOTHER CIGARETTE...

DEAR, SWEET STUPID COOK! MY STUPID WIFE! YOU NEVER SUSPECTED I KNEW ABOUT YOU AND IRVING, DID YOU?



BERNARD'S FACE GREW DARK! HE UNBUCKLED HIS COAT.

WELL, I KNOW IT ALL THE TIME CORA! YOU DIDN'T FOOL ME FOR A MINUTE! I KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING BEHIND MY BACK!



I NEVER SAW MISTRESS CORA! HE MADE NO SOUND. NO OUTCRY OF DISBELIEF.

SURPRISED, ARENT YOU? I HOPE YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE SAFE! YOU THOUGHT I'D NEVER SUSPECT MY BEST FRIEND OF TRYING TO STEAL MY WIFE!



HOW HIGHLIGHT YOU BOTH WERE! HOW BLIND! WHY, I EVEN REMEMBER THE NIGHT YOUR LITTLE AFFAIR BEGAN! WE'VE BEEN OUT TOGETHER SINCE THE TIME OF US FRIENDS?

LET'S GO, HONEY! BERNARD'S HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK. I THINK WE'LL BETTER GET HIM HOME.



YES, IT'S BEEN DRINKING! AND I HAD A RIGHT TO IT! ANY MAN IN MY POSITION WOULD HAVE BOTTLED HIMSELF DEAD DRUNK! AFTER ALL, BEING RUINED FINANCIALLY IS NO EASY THING TO TAKE.

HURP HURP! MATTER WHAT TIME IT IS!

IT'S LATE, DEAR! TIME TO GO HOME!

YOU GET A CAB, CORA!



YOU HAD A PRETTY ROUGH TIME GETTING ME TO THE CAR, DIDN'T YOU, MY DEAR? AND ON THE WAY HOME?

BERNARD! SPEAK TO ME! BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

HE'S PASSED OUT, CORA! DON'T WORRY! I'LL PUT HIM TO BED AND HE'LL BE OKAY IN THE MORNING!



YOU REMEMBER THAT NIGHT, CORA? I
WAS CARRIED INTO THE HOUSE
AND LAID ME ON OUR BED! AND
YOU TOOK OFF MY SHOES!
REMEMBER?

"IS HE CRAZY,
CORA?" "HE'S ASLEEP!"

"WELL, IF IT'S
LATE, I'D
MIGHT AS WELL
GO HOME." "NO,
NOT JUST YET,
BUT I WANT TO
TALK TO YOU.
IT'S ABOUT
BRIAN."

"ANYTHING
WRONG,
CORA?"
"EVERYTHING
WAS FINE UNTIL
TODAY! I... I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I'M
GOING TO DO!"

"BUT, YOU'RE GOING TO STAY
WITH HARRY, CORA? HE'LL NEED
YOU MORE THAN EVER
NOW! A WOMAN'S PLACE
IS WITH THE MAN SHE
LOVES!"

"BUT I DON'T LOVE
HIM, HARRY! I... I
NEVER LOVED
HIM!"

"DON'T SAY THAT
AGAIN!"

"I ONLY MARRIED HIM FOR
HIS MONEY... THE MONEY HIS
FIRST WIFE LEFT HIM! DO
YOU THINK I'D HAVE MARRIED
A HOMOSEXUAL... WITH A CHILD?
OTHERWISE?"

"CORA!... I
NEVER
KNEW!"

"NO ONE KNEW! NOT EVEN BRIAN!
A WOMAN CAN'T BRAG ABOUT THOSE
THINGS! AND THEN YOU HAD TO COME
BACK FROM ABROAD... MY BEST
FRIEND!"

"WHAT HAVE I GOT
TO DO WITH THIS?"

"IT WASN'T SO BAD TILL
THEIR! I EVEN FELT BRIAN
FOR HER WHEN JOHNNY DIED,
BUT THEN THEY CAME HOME,
AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH
YOU!"



"YOU'RE SURPRISED, AREN'T YOU, SORRY YOU
DON'T THINK I HEARD WHAT WAS SAID THAT NIGHT?
YOU THOUGHT I WAS OUT SOLO ON THE RIDGE."

"YOU... YOU FELL IN
LOVE WITH ME?" "I COULDN'T KEEP MYSELF
AWAY FROM YOU. BUT I TRIED TO MAKE IT
KNOWN YOU WERE HIS
BEST FRIEND!"



"WHY, YOU WERE SO ENRAGED IN EACH OTHER, YOU
DON'T EVEN HEAR ME OPEN THE BEDROOM DOOR. DON'T
EVEN KNOW I WAS WATCHING."

"YOU FOOL! YOU STUPID FOOL!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME WE'RE
MARRIED ALL THIS TIME? YOU,
I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE
FIRST DAY I MET YOU!"

"OH, OH! YOU
KISS ME!"



"AND YOU REALIZED IT'S NEVER GIVE YOU A DIVORCE DOCUMENT,
YOU DON'T DO YOU AND ME STARTED CHATTERING ON A LOVE
AFFAIR BEHIND MY BACK? BUT YOU DID SUCH STUPID
THINGS! YOU SHOULDN'T USE YOUR HEAD!"

"HE'S WORKING LATE, TONIGHT, DARLING! I'LL BE AWAITING
COME SEE ME!" "OVER, COME!"



"STUPID! STUPID! EVERY ONE
OF YOU WERE STUPID! YOU
SHOULDN'T THINK I KNOW!"

"YOU DIDN'T USE
YOUR HEAD! NONE
OF YOU DID!"

"PEOPLE WHO
DON'T USE
THEIR HEADS...
DON'T NEED
THEM..."



BERNARD POUNDED THE TABLE IN ANGER! HIS BURNT STEAK! CORN PITCHED FORWARD FARRY SLUMPED TO THE SIDE! JAMES SLID OFF HIS CHAIR AND DROPPED TO THE FLOOR! AUNT GLORIAH SAT STIFFLY! JACKIE SPRAWLED ACROSS HER LAP! BERNARD SHRIEKED AT THE DECAPITATED CORPSE! HE RAISED A GLASS OF WINE... IN TASTE,

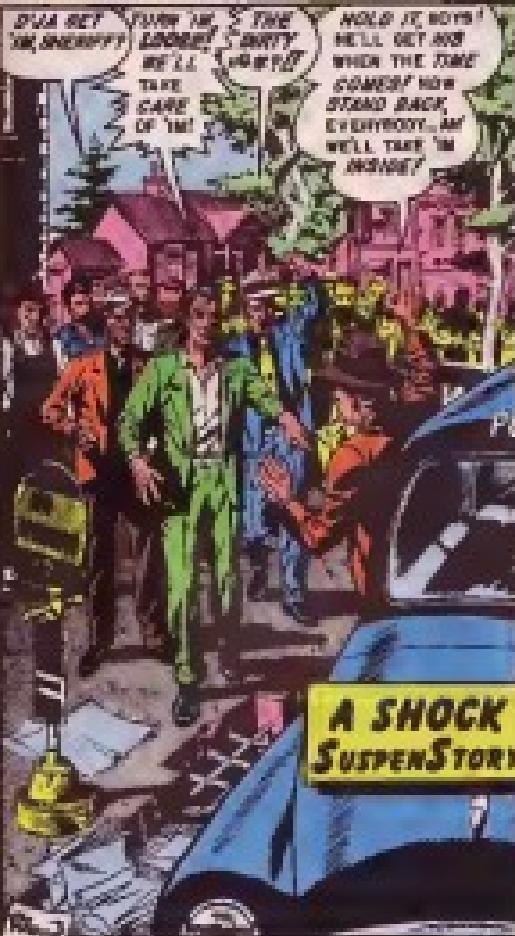
"TO PEOPLE, HEM, HEM... WHO DON'T... HEM, HEM, USE THEIR... EH, EH... EH, EH!"



**BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE SOLID IMPACT
OF THIS GRIPPING NARRATIVE!**

the Guilty!

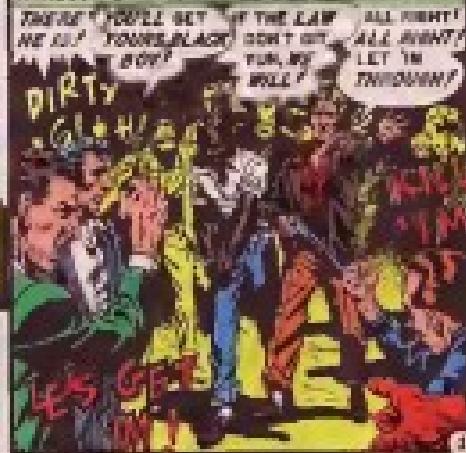
THIS SHAMEFUL STORY MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES! IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IN FORT DODGE! IT BEGAN WITH THE FITFUL WAIL OF A BABY SCREAMING THROUGH THE EAILY SPRING AIR! THE MILLING CROWD AROUND THE JAIL-HOUSE GROW NOISIER AS THE SOUND OF PUL LEVY'S DOOR SWUNG OPEN, AND DARK FIT RUMPHET GAWKIN STEPPED OUT! HE RAISED HIS HAND TO SILENCE THE ANGRY SHOUTS...



THE SHERIFF MOVED THROUGH THE CROWD, CLEARING A PATH UP THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS. WHEN HE REACHED THE TOP, HE TURNED TO THE BROWN-CAR PARKED AT THE CURB.



A DEPUTY STUPPED FROM THE POLICE CAR, AND THE PRISONER NAMED COLLINS FOLLOWED. THE BURGLARY GLEAMED ON HIS FOREHEAD-THICK-COVERED BROWN HAIR; HIS ARMS HUNG LIBERTLY BEFORE HIM, HIS SCULPTURED BIBLICAL MUSCLES BURNING.



THE DEPUTY LED COLLINS UP THE LONG FLIGHT OF STEPS! THE CROWD MOVED IN ON THE FRIGHTENED, DARK-SKINNED PRISONER... SHOUTING PROFANITIES, CURING THREATENING...

WHAT'S HE DO, ANYWAY?

KILLED A WHITE WOMAN?

DO HE ATTACK HER?

PROBABLY! BUY A MINUTE! THEY DON'T KNOW FOR SURE WHO WHO SAID COLLINS DID IT!

MAN BARRIER SEEN ME HEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WENT THE TIME IT HAPPENED?

THAT DON'T MAKE 'IM SURE PRETTY SEE ON IT, TOO.



SHERIFF WALKS OUT AT COLLINS AS HE PASSES AND THE SHERIFF SAW DOWN HIS CHAPS! IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GOING TO THE SHERIFF ORDERED THE INMATES

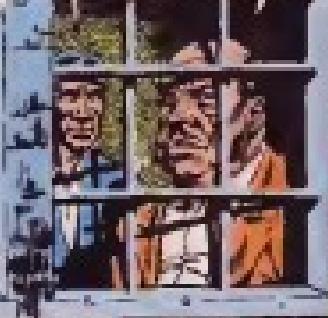
LET'S NOT WHILE PRETTY MEAN! LET'S GO! IT'S THE OUT WHILE MADE IT A D-E-TOWN FOR SHERIFF PAPERS. COLLINS? STILL ALIVE?

FINALLY, THEY NOT THE PRISONER INSIDE THE JAILHOUSE.

TODAY THE DAY, THIS GROD HAD TO SHERIFF! OUT THERE'S NOBODY TALKED UP SHERIFF! DON'T YOU

DON'T YOU THINK WE BETTER LOOK AND POLT THAT DOORST THEY

IT'S SURE THE EARTH A LOT OF MONEY. PHIL SPOTLIGHT WANTS TO USE RUSTIN?



THE JAIL-HOUSE DOORS WERE BOLTED SHUT, AND OUTSIDE, THE CROWD CONTINUED TO MELL ABOUT COLLINS. ANOTHER SIREN WAILLED AND A BLACK LINCOLN PULLED UP...

IT'S THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY!

HELL, FREDDY! WHERE'S THE TRAIL?

TAKE IT EASY FOLKS! THE TRAIL'LL COME OFF JUST AS SOON AS WE SET OUR CASE TOGETHER!

YOU AIN'T GORNA STALL ANYMORE AND YU, FREDDY?

WE'RE IN JURRY FINNED UP A BIT, FREDDY!

SO YOU DON'T, FREDDY COLLINS IS GOIN' TO GET A FAIR TRIAL. I DON'T WANT ANY FUNNY BUSINESS!



FREDERICK MOORE REACHED THE TOP OF THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS AND TURNED TO FACE THE GATHERED TOWNSFOLK.

NOW, WHAT DON'T YOU ALL DO ON HOME? YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING HANGING AROUND HERE! THE LAW'LL HANDLE THINGS! SO ON! ALL OF YOU! GO ON HOME!

CHEW,
AL?
HE'S
RIGHT!

LET'S
YEAR!
SO?

OPEN UP, SAWSON! IT'S
ME, FRED MOORE, THE G.A.!

OH, MOORE! SAY!
JUST A MINUTE!

THEY Began To Move Off! A Few At First, Then More And More! Soon, The Jail-House Steps Were Almost Deserted.

SHERIFF DAWSON UNLOCKED THE DOORS AND PEERED OUT.

HOT!
WHERE'D
EVERYBODY
GOT?

I GAVE 'EM ON HOME!
THERE'D ONLY BE A LOT
OF TROUBLE IF THEY
HUNG AROUND!

SHucks! I
THOUGHT THEY
TRY AN' LYIN'
THE R—R!

DISAPPOINTED.
SHERIFF WILL,
THERE'LL BE NO
J PRIGGS
WHILE I'M
G.A.!

U. HELL, FRED!
I NEVER' HELL
GET JUST FAIR
AND SQUARE!

I'M NOT SO
CERTAIN OF
THAT, DAWSON!

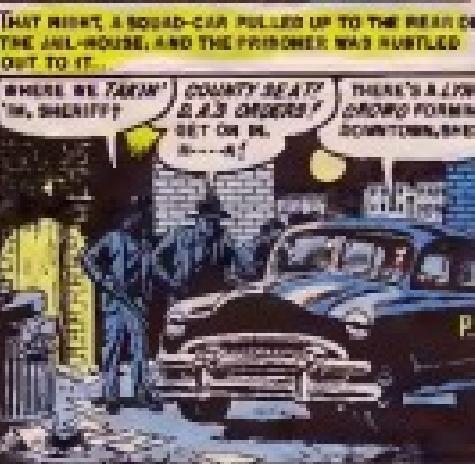
MUCH WORRIES
BECAUSE WHAT'S
KNOWN? MY
KNOCK HE
DID IT!

YEAH, HE PROBABLY DID!
BUT A QUARTZ CRIMINAL Lawyer
COULD TEAR OUT CARE AGAINST
COLLING TO SKEEZE! WHAT HAVE
WE GOT... THE TESTIMONY OF ONE
MAN WHO MERELY ALLEGES COLLUS
IN THE VICINITY AT THE TIME? EVEN
IF WE COULD PROVE ABSOLUTE...

LISTER, MOORE! THAT
M—E'S AS FOOLISH AS
SAY! HE HAD BORN
GET AWAY WITH IT!
WHO, WHO DEFEND
HIM ANYWAY?

JELL TELL YOU WHO!
THERE'S A LAWYER...
FROM SOME CIVIL
LIBERTIES ORGAN-
IZATION OR HIS WAY
HOME! THOSE GUYS ARE
PRETTY FRIENDLY!





THE NEXT DAY, THE LAWYER FROM OUT-OF-TOWN ARRIVED UPON THE SCENE...

MY NAME IS ANDREW LOWELL ANDERSON! HE AIN'T HERE! WE TOOK HIM TO THE COUNTY SEAT!

THAT WAS A VERY WISE THING TO DO, SHERIFF! WAS IT REASONABLE?

NO! THE D.A. FOR MY PART, THEY COULD BE STRONG 'EM UP LAST NIGHT! HE'S GUILTY, SHERIFF! SORRY!

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN! HE'D LIKE TO EXAMINE THE FESTE-MONY OF THIS MAN, NAME BARFORT?

YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE THE D.A. 'BOUT THAT! HE'S GOT ALL THE DOPE IN HIS FILES!



SOPHIE, PIRATES BEGAN TO FLY AROUND THE TOWN.

HEY, SHERIFF! THEY SAY THIS SAW HAD BUT ANDERSON'S A SMALL WOMAN BETTER COLLARS OFF!

YOU GORNA LET 'EM, SHERIFF? COLLINS'S GUILTY, AINT HE?

SHERIFF! BUT WHAT 'EM I DON'T I DONE MY JOB? I PROVED 'EM OUT! IT'S UP TO THE D.A. NOW!

THE DAY'S CHARGED BY...

THEY SAY ANDERSON'S GORNA JUST OPEN HAD BARRON'S TESTIMONY, DAMON!

ZAPPO-BUST STANTHAL EVIDENCE! WE GORNA STAND FOR THAT, SHERIFF?

YOU SHOULD ERKED 'EM WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING NOW!



TRAIL-DATE DREW NEAR...

MR. ANDERSON! DO YOU HAVE ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE TO THE PRESS?

BETLEMEN! I HAVE REPORTED TO MY CLIENT, MR. COLLINS, AND I HAVE EXAMINED THE TESTIMONY! I AM CONFIDENT OF HIS INNOCENCE AND WILL PROVE IT AT THE TRIAL!



COLLINS IS GUILTY! HE PRACTICALLY ADMITTED IT! NO LEGAL BRAIN-ALE FROM OUT-OF-TOWN TO GORNA GET ANY DAY! NOT WHILE I'M SHERIFF!

MAY WE QUOTE YOU, SHERIFF DAMON?



THE DAY OF THE TRIAL DAWNED DARK AND STORMY.
IT HAD RAINED ALL THE PREVIOUS NIGHTS. THE SHERIFF AND TWO OF HIS DEPUTIES SET OFF FOR THE COUNTY SEAT TO BRING BACK AUBREY DOLLING.

THINK THEY'LL GET THE WISE IN OFF, SHERIFF?

THAT ANDERSON GUY HAS SOMETHIN' UP HIS SLEEVE!

MAYBE I GOT SOMETHIN' UP MY SLEEVE, TOO.

NO H---L-LONIN' LAMBERT. DUNNA MAKE A FOOL OUTTA ME!

WHATCHA DUNNA DO, LET'S HEAR IT, SHERIFF?

SHOT UP AND DROVE...

IT HAD RAINED TO HAMMER WHEN THE SQUAD-CAR PICKED UP DOLLING AT THE COUNTY-SEAT JAIL-HOUSE...

LET'S GO DOLLING! GET IN THERE. MUSTN'T KEEP THE COURT WAITIN'!

THEY STARTED BACK IN SILENCE. DOLLING SAT, HANDCUFFED, BETWEEN SHERIFF DAWSON AND ONE DEPUTY; THE OTHER DEPUTY DROVE. FINALLY...



I TOLD YOU TO STOP THE CAR!

B--SURE THEM SHERIFF

THE SQUAD-CAR ROLLED TO A STOP. THE RAIN CONTINUED TO POUR DOWN...

GET OUT AND SEE WHAT'S WHAT, JEG! I THINK WE GOT A PLATTF FARE A LOOK!

YEAH, SHERIFF, SURE 'JAVE!

THE DEPUTY NAMED JEG STEPPED OUT INTO THE POURING RAIN AND STARTED TO CIRCLE THE CAR, KICKING AT THE TIRES...



DANSON SHOVED COLLINS OUT OF THE CAR! THE DARK-SKINNED BOY SPRAWLED IN THE MUD! THE SHERIFF DREW HIS PUN AND COCKED THE RIFLE...

I SAID, GET DOWN
YOU BLACKBASSET!
RUN! RUN!



COLLINS TURNED AND RAN! THE SHERIFF SHOTTED CAREFULLY...

COLLINS GOT TO HIS FEET HE STARED AT THE SUN FOR A MOMENT, SHAKING HIS HEAD DANSON SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER! THE BULLET KILLED UP THE PUDDLE TO THE RIGHT OF THE DARKSKIN BOY'S FEET.

RUN, BLAST YOU! RUN!
RUN!

BLAM!



THE BULLET HIT THE DARK-SKINNED BOY IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD! HE FUTTERED FORWARD... 'T'...

...HE WAS LYING FACE DOWN IN A MUDDY PUDDLE WHEN THEY CAME UP...

YOU SAID HIM HAD A BREAK FOR IT WHEN WE ROLLED DOWN... DON'T YOU, JEB? PHIL? YOU HEARD ME, JEB?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S SHERIFF'S BUSINESS BUT FUNNY...



THE MOBES OF COLLINS AND DUMPED HIM IN THE BACK SEAT! THEN THEY DROVE ON TO TOWN! THERE WAS A GROWD AROUND THE COURT-HOUSE WHEN THEY ARRIVED MOORE, THE DA, CAME TO THE DOOR AS THEY DROVE UP...

THE PIAF'S OFF! WHAT'S OFF? YOU CAN LEFT HIM GO! HE'S IN THE BACK! I KNOW HIM WHILE HE WAS TRYIN' TO ESCAPE!



DOUG LORRE/PHANT BARRON JUST CONFESSERED! ANDISON BROKE HIM DOWN! HE DID IT! HE KILLED THE WOMAN! COLLINS WAS INNOCENT! INNOCENT AS A BABY! WELL, TOO BAD! HE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE! WONDER WHAT CAUSED HIM TO DO IT?

WHETHER ANYBODY COLLINS WAS ARMED OR NOT ON THIS LEFT IS NOT IMPORTANT! BUT FOR ANY AMERICAN TO HAVE SO LITTLE REGARD FOR THE LIFE AND RIGHTS OF ANY OTHER AMERICAN IS A DISRESPECT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION! AFTER WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS FOUNDED!



JUMP-OFF!

Battered though he was, Ben Troy was alert enough to glance at the elevator button which the cop pressed. Despite the haze of pain forcing him back past the edge of unconsciousness, the captive Public Enemy caught sight of the number "2" under the man's thumb. He groaned in agony and tossed frantically on the wheeled emergency stretcher, but what he had seen kept drumming through his fevered brain. The Police who had captured him when his car cracked-up... they were taking him to a hospital room on the second floor. His luck was holding out! The second floor gave him at least a whisper of a chance to escape the hot seat awaiting his recovery from the accident! Two... just... *TWO*... with a break like this, he had an even-chance of a getaway!

It seemed like acres later that Ben Troy recovered consciousness. Only his right eye was free of bandages, and when he turned in the bed a stabbing pain shuddered through his body. He was able to move, agonizing though it was... those fool cops had neglected to strap him to his bed! They must've thought that car cracked-pur old Ben on the ribs, he thought to himself. After Sing Sing and Alcatraz, jumping-off from this damn-box of a hospital oughtta be a snap!

Slowly, gritting his teeth to keep a gasp of pain from escaping, he slid from the hospital bed and wobbled toward the single window at the far side of the darkened room. He could hear the voices whispering outside the door. Two of them, he gleared... two cops stationed outside! That dumb District Attorney's trying to think

THAT'S enough to keep Ben Troy from escaping!

With painstaking care he opened the room's only window. It was pitch-black outside... he couldn't see a foot beyond the sill. But what Ben could see made him chuckle inwardly. The window was shattered! All he had to do was get out on that sill and drop to the ground! With teeth grinding into his lower lip to keep from crying out in pain, he clambered ponderously into the space left by the open window. Nothing was visible below him in the darkness outside... must be a narrow inner court, he decided! Perfect spot for his jump-off! Enclosed as it was, his descent would never be heard! He could probably find a door and force his way out before they ever suspected that he was gone!

He drew a deep breath and rehored his grip on the window sill, feeling the air rush up to meet him as he dropped. Second floor, he gloated... *all I'll get is a little cracking up! Luckily those perky duds don't know I realized how close to the ground I was!*

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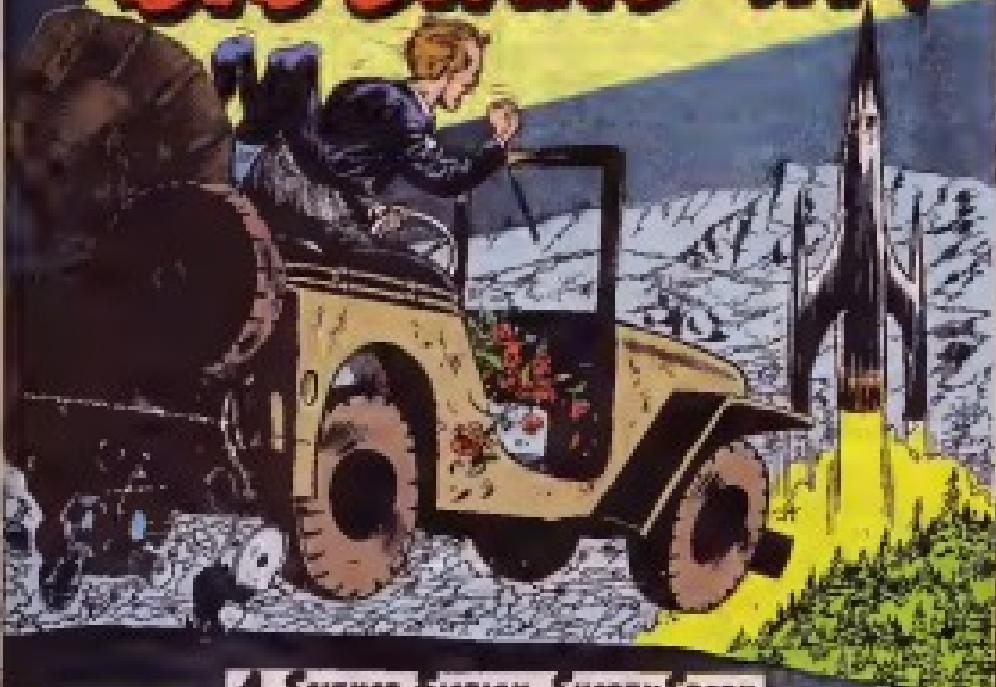
The bald police officer looked at his wrist-watch.

"Wow!" he exclaimed. "Time sure passed while we gassed out here! We better get this Troy character back to the receiving room. Why we gotta keep moving him around this hospital is something I'll never understand!"

The bald-headed officer raised the handle of the door he had been guarding and, followed by the other policemen, stepped into Room 819...

YOU'LL BE JARRED BY THE STARTLING WIND-UP TO THIS SCIENCE-FICTION YARN!

The BIG STAND-UP!



A SCIENCE-FICTION SUSPENSE STORY

My name is Jack Thompson! I'm a television engineer! You may not believe the story I'm about to tell you... but it's true, every word of it! Know, because it happened to *me*! It all began the night I decided to work late at the TV studio where I was employed.



The night's transmission time was over and everyone had gone home! Jack was the last to leave. He went out onto the sound stage and rolled camera one over to the control room window. He pointed it at my seat inside and focused carefully.



THEN I WENT INTO THE CONTROL ROOM'S DAY DOWNS AT THE MONITOR-PANEL AND PLUFFED ON CAMERA ONE'S MONITOR-SCREEN. THEN I CUT IN THE JUICE AND DROPPED THE TRANSMITTER HOOD UP SO THE IMAGE WOULDN'T GO OUT OVER THE AIR! PRETTY SOON MY OWN FACE PURPLED APPEARED ON THE PANEL.

BOY, YOU DO NEED ADJUSTING, BABY!
I LOOK LIKE I JUST GOT BLAMMED
ON THE HEAD WITH A Sledge-Hammer!

THE FACE ON CAMERA ONE'S MONITOR-SCREEN WAS NOT MY FACE; IT WAS THE FACE OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

HOTTY-MADTY THE HOT IDEA! SOMEBODY TRYIN'
TO BE FUNNY?

I FLICKED ON THE CONTROL ROOM MIKE AND STOOD PA SYSTEM BY VOICE FORCED THROUGH THE DESERTED STUDIO.

LOOK, MISTERER FON - ENGLA-
AREF I'M TRYIN' TO SET
SOME STUPID COMEDY STUFF
FOR COMEDY AND CUT
IN CAMERA ONE NOW!

I COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT! CAMERA ONE WAS 'ON'!
I COULD TELL BY THE GLIMMER RED LIGHT ON THE
TRIP' AND IT WAS POINTED DIRECTLY AT ME! THE
MONITOR IN THE CONTROL ROOM CARRIED THE
PICTURE OF THAT LUCIOUS BABY! I PINCHED
MYSELF! I FIGURED I MUST BE DREAMING...

CHEEZY!

CHOO! CHOO-IN-DORT- DON-YON-
DOOT-SU-WALA- BOO T

I WENT OUT TO THE CAMERA AND INCREASED THE VERTICAL DRIVE. THEN I CHECKED THE LINEARITY AND RETURNED TO MY SEAT...

THERE'S THAT GUY! TO... LOOK... JOHN F.
KELLY? WHO'S KNOBBIN' AROUND?

I WAS LOSING MY TEMPER FAST!
FIRST THAT HORRIBLE FACE... AND
HOW SOME GIVE DOUBLE-TALK...
CLIMB OFF IT! CLIMB OFF!
I DON'T SAY DOOR-KNOB-NOTS
LATE FOR FUN! AL-A-PORT?
SACK! YOU DON'T THINK THIS?

NO! I WAS WIDE AWAKE! SOMETHING FRIGHTENING WAS
TAKING PLACE! UNLESS SOMEBODY DELIBERATELY
REFINED THE MONITOR-BOARD, THIS THING WAS
IMPOSSIBLE! BUT I HEARL TOOK THE PLACE APART
WHEN SHE STARTED TALKING ENGLISH...

WHO ARE YOU? J. ANG-LAUA? STATION-NAME?
VIEW-GRAPH ENGINEER, TEEZ? THREE AM, EOT
SHIFT, INTERPLANETARY COMMERCIAL? IT OUT-WEIRD
STATION COMMERCIAL HEADQUARTERS? FON? THAT'S
STATION ZONIA, OR PLANET 47? ENOUGH FOOLIN'
AROUND!

BUT SHE JUST KEPT ON TALKING
AND SHE WAS SO AD SERIOUS...

OPERATION OF INTER-
PLANETARY COMMUNI-
TIES IS NOT FOOLING
AROUND YOU ARE
JUMMING BY WAVE-
LENGTH IDENTI-
TY YOURSELF!



THIS IS THE ENHANCED
BART THOMPSON
STATION WAVE-TV.
PLANET EARTH...
SALARY IS 50 PER
AND I'LL RAISE
FOUR BOYFRIEND'S
HEAD OFF WHEN I
GET AHOLO OF...



EARTH-LIKE HELLS
IS GOING TO BE BORNED
IN FORT JORDON?
LOOK HERE, JACK!
THAT'S ENOUGH! LOCATED?



IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM WITH
THE ONE WITH
THE MINT PLANETS...
THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE,
ANSWERING THE
ONE WITH THE FIVE...
WHICH IS JUST WHAT
I'M GOING TO DO TO
FOOT ABOVE...



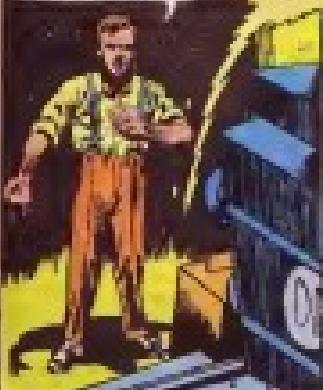
HUMAN BRAINS
IMPOSSIBILITY...



THAT'S ENOUGH! AND I'M ON THE
FOURTH STATION SAY IS THIS A
JOKE OR NOT? IT



BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
DO YOU SEE ME? CLEARLY?



BUT I'M NOT EVEN
TRANSMITTERING!
I'M ON A CLOSED
CIRCUIT!



OBVIOUSLY, IT IS AN
INTERSTELLAR
ELECTRONIC
WARP!



SAY! HOW COME I
CAN UNDERSTAND
YOU IF YOU'RE
FROM SOME OTHER SPARE MY OWN
WORLD. HOW COME
YOU HEARD IT
BEFORE? I
HAVE AN AUTO-
MATIC TRANSLATOR

HOGES UNT IT'S A
TYPE OF MECHANICAL-
ELECTRICAL BRAIN IT
TRANSLATES OUR HUMAN
THE LANGUAGES FOR US

LARA WHO LOVELY? WE CHATTED FOR HALF THE NIGHT SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER PLANET, AND I TALKED ALL ABOUT EARTH.

YOU - YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL... AND YOU ARE QUITE AMAZING... LARA!

YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT SPACE... OH, FEEL TRAVEL YOURSELF YOURSELF YOURSELF YOURSELF PEOPLE NAME IT'S OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!

BUT YOU YOU COULDNT SEND ME ANYTHING COULD YOU?

WELL, WE COULD BUT IT WOULD TAKE A FERRY LONG TIME! YES, MAYBE FIFTEEN MILLION MILLIONS OF YOUR PLANET ABOUT ITS STAR!

TODAY MORNING I CONFESSED TO LARA...

I LOVE YOU OH, BARTY! LARA! I KNOW I LOVE YOU! IT'S CRAZY AND USELESS - BUT I DO!

WOULD YOU COME TO EARTH, HONEY? IF I WOULD WAIT FOR YOU?

I WILL - I WILL SEE BARTY! BARTY! BARTY! I MUST GET OFF SO THE NEXT SWAPPY IS COMING!

BUH, LARA! I WILL SUPPORT MY MIGHTY INSTRUMENT SETTING CONTACT AGAINST YOU DO THE SAMETIME WE WILL SAY! GOOD-BYE!

THEN SHE WAS GONE! I CHECKED EVERYTHING CAREFULLY... NOTING EACH ADJUSTMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE CONTROL ROOM THEN I WENT HOME! THE NEXT NIGHT...

STEIN' LATE AGAIN, BARTY! THAT'S RIGHT!

AS SOON AS EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP I SET UP THE EQUIPMENT EXACTLY AS IT HAD BEEN THE PREVIOUS NIGHT! LARA CAME IN SWAPPY...

THAT NIGHT I LEARNED THAT LARA'S SOCIETY HAD A MARRIAGE-FAMILY SET-UP ALSO...

DARLING! I WAS SO WORRIED THAT THAT IT WOULDN'T SWAPPY AGAIN! I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU ALL DAY!

OH, BARTY! I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU TOO!

IF YOU COME TO EARTH, LARA! I'D SWAPPY YOU! I'LL SWAPPY



"WE WENT ON LIKE THAT FOR A YEAR! EVERY NIGHT I'D TALK TO LARA ACROSS THE VOID OF SPACE! WE FELL DESPERATELY AND PASSIONATELY IN LOVE! I LONGED FOR HER! THEN, ONE NIGHT,

"I HAVE WONDERFUL NEWS, DARLING! ONE OF OUR SCIENTISTS HAS JUST PERFECTED A NEW TYPE OF JETPACK! IT WOULD ONLY TAKE HALF A ROTATION TO GET TO YOUR PLANET NOW!"



"WE STARTED BY MY TRANSMITTERING MAPS OF EARTH TO LARA! IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SHE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO LAND.

"YOU'VE GOT THE JETPACK AND CONTINENT? HOW HERE'S A MORE DETAILED MAP OF THE AREA! SEE! YOU'LL LAND HERE, ON THESE SALT PLATES!"



"THE NEXT NIGHT, I TRIED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LARA...BUT SHE DIDN'T COME IN! I KNEW SHE WAS ON HER WAY! THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WERE SHEER HELL. THE AGONY OF WAITING! FINALLY, THE TIME DREW NEAR..."

"REMEMBER THAT JEEP WITH THE SEARCHLIGHT MOUNTED ON IT THAT WE USED WHEN THAT MOVIE STAR CAME TO TOWN, JACK?"



"COULD...POSS...?"

"I COULD STEAL THE EXPERIMENTAL JETPACK! IF I GOT AWAY, THEY'D NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP ME...AND IT'D COME TO YOU! BUT, IF I WERE CAUGHT, IT WOULD MEAN MY LIFE!"



"I CHOSE THE MOST RAPID AREA I COULD THINK OF FOR LARA TO COME DOWN IN! I WANTED TO KEEP THIS WHOLE QUEST! AFTER TWO WEEKS OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION..."



"GOOD-BYE...
DON'T SEE
YOU IN SIX
MONTHS.
YOU CALL
UP?"

"MY LIFE IS EMPTY WITHOUT YOU, LARA! THEN I WILL DO IT! BUT WE MUST PLAN EVERYTHING CAREFULLY! VERY CAREFULLY!"



"NO, BABY! I'LL BE CAREFUL! SIX MONTHS ALREADY DRIBBED BY! THE GUARDS? IT WILL BE EASY! TILL WE MEET AGAIN!"



"I BORROWED IT! I TALKED THE ARMY A TALL STORY ABOUT ANOTHER MOVIE STAR AND DROVE OUT TO THE SALT-PLATES! AS THE HOUR drew near, I STARTED FLASHING THE LIGHT INTO THE STAR-STUDDED SKY..."



SUDDENLY THE SKY ABOVE ME WAS FILLED WITH A ROARING, AND THE SEARCH LIGHT CAUGHT A GLEAMING SILVER SHIP...



THE SHIP HAD TO FLY ABOUT A MILE AWAY! IT SPEEDED ACROSS THE PLATEAU TOWARDS THE SEARCH-LIGHT TRAINED ON IT.

WHAT A SHIPPIN'HOAT -
A GUY TO FLY IT ALL
ALONE! OH BABY, WE
AM I GONNA KISS
YOU?



IT WAS LARA'S SHIP! IT SEEMED
TO BE SPLINTERING IN TWO... FROM
STEM TO STEM...



LARA'S SECRET-SHIP DROPPED TAIL-FIRST TOWARD THE PLATEAU TO THE NORTH OF ME...



AS I NEARED LARA'S SHIP, A STRANGE THING BEGAN
TO HAPPEN...

LARA! IT'S ME... BABY
I'M... I'M... GOOD
LORD!



... AND AS THE TWO HALVES OF
THE GIANT SHIP PARTED WIDE, I
SCREAMED...

LARA!
OH... NO!



LARA LOOKED EXACTLY AS SHE'D
APPEARED ON THE TV MONITOR
SCREEN! THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS
SHE STOOD ABOUT TWO HANDED
FEET TALL...



HERE IS A TALE OF TENSION WITH SHEER,
STARK HORROR IN ITS GRIPPING CLIMAX!

STOMPED!

A HORROR
SuspenseStory



FAR UP IN THE NORTHERN-MOST REACHES OF THE CANADIAN WOODS ARE MEN WHO LIVE BY TRAPPING THE VALUABLE FUR-BEARING ANIMALS WHICH ROAM THAT AREA. SUCH A MAN IS HENRI PEPETE...

"HOW DAIRY MY BEAR-TRAP
SHED IS SPRUNG! THE LINE
FROM THAT TIME FELL UPON
ME!"



HENRI PEPETE HAS MANY TRAPS! DURING THE TRAPPING SEASON, HE SETS THEM OUT IN A ROUTE CALLED A "TRAP-LINE." IT TAKES MANY DAYS TO TRAVEL THIS TRAP-LINE AND COLLECT THE ANIMALS THAT HAVE BECOME ENTRAPPED...

"WHAT WILL I DO? IT TAKES
TWO MEN TO OPEN THE JAWS OF
THE BEAR-TRAP. ONE BY HIMSELF
DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH!"



TRAPPERS LIKE HENRY LIVE IN SMALL, COMFORTABLE CABINS DEEP IN THE WOODS ALL WINTER LONG. THEY SET OUT FROM THEIR CABINS TO TRAVEL THEIR TRAP-LINES. THEY RETURN MANY DAYS... perhaps weeks... later, and rest up after they are finished. They set out again.

LAT IS TOO BAD! UNLESS I CAN GET SOMEONE TO HELP ME SET THE BEAR TRAP, THERE WILL BE NO BEAR HUNTING FOR ME THIS WINTER!

BEAR'S SOMETIMES WEIGH AS MUCH AS A THOUSAND POUNDS! YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW STRONG A TRAP MUST BE TO GATCH A BEAR AND KILL IT.

OH, WELL! PERHAPS MARCEL WILL HELP ME! I WOULD DO THE SAME FOR HIM!

MARCEL DUVALL IS ALSO A TRAPPER. HIS CABIN IS LOCATED NOT FAR FROM HENRY'S DURING THE LONG WINTER, WHEN THEY ARE NOT OUT ON THEIR TRAP-LINES. THE TWO TRAPPERS SPEND MANY NIGHTS TOGETHER, TALKING AND DRINKING.

HENRY: MARCEL! MY FRIEND! YOU ARE BACK!

HENRY: YOU CATCH BEARS?

I CATCH FISH-LINES! HOW I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO? I CANNOT RE-SET TRAP ALONE!

THE JACK-TRAP IS A HUGE STEEZE-JOINED AFFAIR. IN THE CENTER IS A SMALL FLAT DISC WHICH TRIGGERS THE SET TRAP. USUALLY THE ANIMAL STEPS UPON THIS DISC, AND THE TRAP SNAPS SHUT! BUT A BEAR-TRAP, BY NECESSITY, MUST BE A ADULT ONE...

SH-UP-UP-UP-H! WAIT! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO TRY TO PUT THE JAWS APART BY MYSELF!



I MAKE OUT WELL THIS TRIP BUT STILL NO BEAR! THE TRAP WE SET TOGETHER HAS NOT BEEN TOOKEN SINCE!

I AM NOT AS FORTUNATE MARCEL! MY BEAR-TRAP... SHE IS NOT HEEN TOOKEN SINCE!



I WILL HELP YOU, HENRY! WE BOTH SET EACH OTHER'S BEAR-TRAPS WHEN WINTER STARTED, DID WE NOT?

YES MARCEL! BUT NOW YOU ARE FUSED! YOU WILL WANT TO REST AFTER YOUR TRAP-LINE TRIP!



THERE IS ENOUGH
TIME FOR REST WHEN
SUMMER COMES!
HOW MANY DAYS
JOURNEY IS IT? I
DVE FORGOTTEN!

IT IS
BUT ONE
DAY!

GOOD! WE
WILL LEAVE
IN THE
MORNING!

YOU ARE MY
BEST FRIEND,
MARCEL! I AM
LUCKY MANY

GOOD NIGHT,
HENRY!

GOOD NIGHT,
MARCEL!

A FEW MILES FROM HENRY PETITE'S CABIN IS THE CABIN OF JACQUES BOISSET, ANOTHER TRAPPER. ANOTHER TRAPPER! JACQUES HAS ALWAYS HATED HENRY! HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN JEALOUS OF HENRY'S TRAP-TERRITORY! HENRY'S TRAP-LINES HAVE ALWAYS PRODUCED MANY MORE FELTS THAN JACQUES'.

HANT SLOWLY FELTS! THAT IS ALL
I FIND THIS TRIP! MARCLOF DECIDES
TO PAY FOR MY FOOD!



THE NEXT MORNING, HENRY AND MARCLOF START OUT FOR HENRY'S BEAR-TRAP TO RE-SET IT! JACQUES WATCHES THEM GO.

I WONDER WHAT THOSE
TWO ARE DOING TO ME. I WILL
FOLLOW THEM AND USE!



IN THE NORTH-WOODS COUNTRY, A TRAPPER'S TERRITORY IS REGARDED AS SACRED! NO TRAPPER DARES LAY HIS TRAPS IN ANOTHER'S TERRITORY! IT IS AN UNWRITTEN LAW.

BUT IF HENRY PETITE WERE DEAD,
I COULD SET MY TRAPS IN HIS TERRITORY! MARCLOF, HOW I PAY
FOR THAT DAY!



TOWARDS NOON, THE TWO MEN REACH THE SPRUNG
BEAR-TRAP! JACQUES, KEEPING WELL HIDDEN, HAS
FOLLOWED THEM TO THE SPOT.

HERE IT IS, MARCLOF SEE
HOW THE TREE LIMB HAS
PALENT UPON THE RELEASE
SPRING.

YES! WELL!
COME! LET US
RE-SET IT!



EACH MAN GRAPHS ONE OF THE JAWS OF THE
HUGE BEAR TRAP AND THEY BEGIN TO PULL...

HERNIS! SLOWLY!
ABOUT THIS IS A...HUGELY
POWERFUL ONE!

JUST A LITTLE...
HERNIS...
MARCEL!



THERE! IT
IS SET! WHO
THINK OF WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF A MAN WERE CAUGHT
IN THIS TRAP? HE WOULD
NOTBE ABLE TO GET OUT
BY HIMSELF!



YOU ARE RIGHT,
HERNIS! JUST BE
CAUTIOUS. YOU
MAYSELF DO
NOT STEP
INTO IT!

DO NOT WORRY,
MARCEL! I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHERE IT IS.
COMES LET US
GO!



AS THE TWO FRIENDS BEGIN
THEIR RETURN JOURNEY, JACQUES
SOURIET EMERGES FROM HIS
HIDE PLACE...

SO! YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE
THE TRAP IS, EH, HERNIS? WELL?
IT'S EASILY CAN FOR THAT!



JACQUES RETURNS TO HIS CAMP
MEANWHILE FORMULATING HIS
TREACHEROUS SCHEME.

IF I WANT TO MONTE THE
TRAP, JUST A LITTLE BEEF UP
THE TRAP... AND HERNIS WOULD
STEP IN IT. HE WOULD
FREEZE TO DEATH BEFORE
ANYONE MISSED HIM!



FROM HIS CAMP, JACQUES TAKES A HACK-SAW, TWO
STRONG LOGS AND TWO LENGTHS OF HEAVY CHAIN!
HE RETURNS WITH THEM TO HERNIS' BEAR-TRAP!

I MUST BE VERY CAREFUL NOT
TO SPRING THE TRAP WHILE I
MOVE IT!



SLOWLY... CAUTIOUSLY... JACQUES CUTS THE CHAIN THAT
ANCHORS THE BEAR-TRAP WITH THE HACK-SAW.

HMM! IT IS CUT PROFOUNDLY!
HOW TO MOVE IT UP-TRAP?



JACQUES IS HOLDING HIS BREATH AS HE FINALLY FINISHES BRAIDING THE SET-TRAP UP-TAIL, TO A SPOT BETWEEN TWO TALL TREES...

"I AM SHADOW LIKE A LEAFY BUSH. I HAVE DODGED IT!"



CURLING ONE OF THE LENGTHS OF CHAIN ABOUT ONE OF THE TWO TREES AND LOOPING IT THROUGH THE TRAP, JACQUES LOCKS IT CLOSED WITH ONE OF THE TWO LOCKS HE'S BROUGHT...

"THERE! NOW THE COVERT ONE!"



REPEATING THIS MANEUVER ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE TRAIL, JACQUES SECURES THE TRAP TIGHTLY BEHIND THE TWO TREES...

"HOW TO AVOID THE TRAP SO HEAVILY WELL, NOT SEE IT!"



A FEW HANDFULS OF DEAD LEAVES AND DRIED TWIGS AND THE TRAP IS CAMOUFLAGED! JACQUES DRINKS AT HIS WATER...

"HEH, HEH! NOW IT IS READY FOR YOU, MONKEY! READY FOR YOU!"



IT IS ALMOST A WEEK LATER THAT HENRI PETITE COMPLETES ANOTHER TRAIL-LESS TRAIL AND MOVES UP THE TRAIL, TOWARD HIS BEAR-TRAP...

"I DO NOT HEAR ANY THRESHOLD OR GROANING! AHM! AND EEEEEE! WELL! I WILL CANTER TO SEE IF THE TRAP IS STILL..."



THE MIGHTY ARMS OF THE TRAP SPRING SPLIT ON HENRI'S ARM...



FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, HENRI STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF! THE PAIN IS EXCRUCIATING! THE HUNDRED STEEL TEETH ARE IN DEEP! FINALLY, HE LAYS BACK EXHAUSTED...

"IT IS NO USE, BABY! IT IS BABY, NO USE! I CANNOT OPEN THE TRAP BY MYSELF! I... BABY... I MUST WAIT FOR BABY, SOMEONE TO HELP, RESCUE ME!"



HENRY LOOKS AROUND HIS PACK AND HIS GUN LAY WHERE THEY HAVE FALLEN! HE REACHES OUT FOR THEM...

JACQUES! JACQUES! I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR GUN! YOUR PACK?

JACQUES! OH JACQUES! JACQUES!

JACQUES MOVES FROM HIS HIDING PLACE AND BRAINS HENRY'S GUNFIRE INTO THE BEACH.

JACQUES! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

OH, MR. HENRY! YOU ARE GOING TO STAY HERE AND FREEZE TO DEATH!

JACQUES! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? HOW DO YOU THINK I SETTED YOUR TRAP IN THE FOREST PLACES?

OF COURSE, MR. HENRY! WHO DO YOU THINK MADE YOUR TRAP IN THE FOREST PLACES?

FOUR FEET AND THREE FEET? BUT WHAT?

BECAUSE I WANT YOUR TRAP-JAMES, HENRY! THIS WILL LOOK LIKE AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT! THEY'LL THINK YOU WERE RELOCATING YOUR TRAP... AND IT SURVIVED!

I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO FOLLOW HENRY TO SEE IF MY PLAN WORKED! I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR PACK AND GUN! HOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH THEM! WELL! FOR HENRY, HENRY! PERHAPS A WILD CAT OR WOLF WILL END YOUR SUFFERING FAST!

JACQUES DISAPPEARS INTO THE WOODS AND HENRY STARES AFTER HIM, DAMPENED...

I... I WILL SURVIVE WITHOUT MY PACK! I CANNOT PROTECT MYSELF WITHOUT MY GUN! I WILL DIE HERE!

FOR MANY HOURS, HENRY STRUGGLES IN VAIN TRYING TO FREE HIMSELF, TRYING TO REACH HIS KNIFE, BUT HE KNOWS THAT IT IS USELESS! HE THINKS OF THE MANY ANIMALS THAT HE HAS TRAPPED THIS WAY! A DAY PASSES! TWO! HUNGER AWAITS AT HENRY'S STOMACH.

MORE, MORE, MYSELF! I... I... MUST...

A WEEK LATER, MARCEL DUNAL COMES TO SEE JACQUES SQUIFFET.

IT IS ABOUT ANTHONY PETTER! HE HAS NOT RETURNED FROM HIS TRAP-LINE TOUR! I... IF HE DOES NOT COME, WE WILL LOOK FOR HIM!



MEANWHILE, OUT IN THE WOODS, A HUNGRY, HALF-STARVED FIGURE DRAGGED ITSELF ALONG, LEAVING A TRAIL OF BLOOD BEHIND IT.



ON AND ON, FAIRLYLY, HENRI PULLS HIMSELF AS MOUNTAINS FALL. HE HEARS THE GASH OF JACQUES SQUIFFET...



JACQUES IS IN HIS COY LODGING WHEN THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN! HENRI STANDS FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY. THE STUNNED MAN RUSHES UP, SWINGING FRANTICALLY.



THE SHOTGUN IN HENRI'S HANDS EXPLODES AND ANTHONY'S FACE SPLITS INTO A RED MARK.



WHEN MARCEL DUNAL COMES TO SQUIFFET'S CEMETERY THE NEXT MORNING, HE FINDS JACQUES DEAD! MARCEL BELIEVES HELL HAS STRUCK.

THE FAT DIRTY SNORT! BUT... BUT HOW DO YOU FREE YOURSELF, HENRI? YOU HAD A HELF-A-HAMMER?



NO... DAD... MY KNIFE WAS IN... MY BACK...

HENRI'S ANSWER IS ALMOST UNHEARABLE! IT COMES IN HIS DYING BREATH...



I... I CLEW... I CLEW... MY LEG OFF!

THE
END